



## Land of Oz Outreach

Land of Oz is a school that serves the community and above all, the Lord. Land of Oz outreach programmes are very close to our hearts and have been running, with the help of our amazing volunteer parents, for many years now.

Over the years we have been involved in a number of nursery schools and day-care centres in the Diepsloot area. Involvement has ranged from raising money for classroom resources, food parcels and Christmas gifts, to collecting Easter chocolates, clothing, shoes and books, as well as to providing teacher training to some of these schools.

Recently, we have streamlined our goals and, in an effort not to spread ourselves out too thin, we have focused mainly on food provision for the schools that we support. For many of the children, this is the only hot meal they receive in a day, and the only nutritious one too, as well as providing an incentive to come to the school. The impact of hunger on learning abilities is well documented and we felt that focusing on this area would have the greatest impact.

We have also strengthened our partnerships with the Training & Resource Centre (TRC) at HeronBridge College who work directly in these communities. Through this relationship, the schools are carefully selected with long-term sustainability and viability in mind. In addition, strengthened partnerships with Rise Against Hunger, and other corporate donors have enabled us to ensure our funds are used in the most effective manner. Most of the funding we raise goes directly towards food parcels which we pack and distribute together with Rise Against Hunger and the TRC.

As a result of our annual fundraising initiatives, we have:

- \* built a school in Diepsloot (Alpha Day Care Centre);
- \* packed over 150 000 meals for distribution;
- \* delivered hundreds of jerseys each year just before the winter season, and
- \* blessed hundreds of children with Christmas presents as school closes each year.

The last few years have been incredible years of growth, learning and giving, and we feel privileged to be a part of this team. It's hard to adequately express how you feel when you are in the schools we support and seeing the children's faces when we visit the schools makes our time and effort so worthwhile. We would like to sincerely thank all our parents and grandparents who support us, no matter how small a contribution, of time or resources, we could not do this without you!